



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

December 23, 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNDER SECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES,  
AND OTHER KEY OFFICIALS

SUBJECT: Executive Director for the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced  
Services (CARES) Commission

I have appointed Richard E. Larson to serve as the Executive Director of the CARES Commission. As Executive Director Mr. Larson will direct the day-to-day Commission activities, be the primary advisor to the Commission Chairman, and be responsible for ensuring that the Commission's report is completed on schedule. Mr. Larson's appointment will be effective on January 5, 2003.

The CARES Commission was created to conduct an external assessment of VA's capital asset needs and to ensure that stakeholder and beneficiary concerns are fully addressed. The CARES Commission will consider recommendations from VA's Under Secretary for Health, veterans service organizations, individual veterans, Congress, medical school affiliates, VA employees, local government entities, community groups, and others. Commission forums will include both Washington-based meetings and public hearings across the country. The Commission is expected to present its findings and recommendations to me in the fall of 2003.

Since coming to VA, Mr. Larson has served as the Secretary's liaison to implement the Tiger Team, principal technical advisor to the Administration's initiative to transfer veterans' employment programs to VA, and as the Department's Project SHAD Coordinator. Before his coming to VA Mr. Larson served on the Congressional Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance and he worked for 27 years at the Department of Labor (DoL). His assignments at DoL included serving as the Director of Operations and Programs; Director of Strategic Planning; Director of Information, Management, and Budget; and Director of Regulations, Policies, and Procedures.

Mr. Larson is a former Marine and a combat decorated Vietnam veteran.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Anthony J. Principi", is centered below the text.

Anthony J. Principi